



**Washington State Supreme Court
Commission on Children in Foster Care
May 14, 2018
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present

Justice Bobbe Bridge (ret.), Washington State Supreme Court, Commission Co-Chair
Ms. Connie Lambert-Eckel, Acting Assistant Secretary, Children's Administration, Commission Co-Chair
Mr. Mike Canfield, Co-Chair of Foster Parents Association of Washington State
Ms. Raven Healing, NW Intertribal Council
Mr. Jim Bamberger, Office of Civil Legal Aid
Ms. Jill Malat, Office of Civil Legal Aid (designee for Jim Bamberger)
Ms. Tonia McClanahan, Parent Advocate Representative
Mr. Ryan Murrey, Executive Director, Washington State CASA
Ms. Joanne Moore, Washington State Office of Public Defense
Mr. Martin Mueller, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (designee for Chris Reykdal)
Ms. Jeannie Kee, Foster Youth Alumni Representative
Mr. Sabian Hart, Foster Youth in Care Representative
Ms. Carrie Wayno, Attorney General's Office (designee for Bob Ferguson)
Judge Kitty-Ann van Doorninck, Superior Court Judges' Association (designee for Judge Sean O'Donnell)

Members Not Present

Rep. Ruth Kagi, Washington State House of Representatives
Senator Steve O'Ban, Washington State Senate

Guests

Ms. Cindy Bricker, Sr. Court Program Analyst, AOC
Ms. Lorrie Thompson, Sr. Communications Officer, AOC
Ms. Lauren Frederick, Public Policy and Advocacy Manager, The Mockingbird Society
Ms. Bri Winslow, Olympia Chapter Leader - Mockingbird Youth Network
Ms. Laurie Lippold, Director of Public Policy, Partners for Our Children
Ms. Peggy Carlson, Program Supervisor Foster Care Education, OSPI
Mr. Patrick Dowd, Director Ombuds, Office of the Family and Children's Ombuds
Mr. Matt Orme, Sr. Research Associate, Washington State Center for Court Research

Staff Present

Ms. Andie Uomoto, CCFC Staff Intern, Center for Children & Youth Justice
Ms. Nichole Kloepfer, AOC

Call to Order

Acting Assistant Secretary Connie Lambert-Eckel called the meeting to order at 1:02pm. She welcomed all Commission members and guests and invited everyone to introduce themselves.

DSHS/Children's Administration Updates

Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel provided updates from DSHS's Children's Administration (CA).

Children's Administration continues to work closely with leadership from the Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF) to prepare for the transition to the new department in July 2018. DCYF and CA continue development of DCYF's organizational chart. Staff are eager to learn where their role will fit into DCYF, and who their supervisors and leadership will be. Integrating multiple information technology and human resource departments is time consuming and requires careful attention. The organizational chart will be published in the near future.

The transition team is also working on a "tear-off" sheet for the first day of DCYF's operation. This "tear-off" sheet will allow staff to quickly reference who to contact for technology or human resource questions. The human resource department of DCYF is being constructed from "scratch" and will need to be fully operational by July 1, 2018. The Director of Human Resources was hired and is working to finalize the logistics of establishing the HR department.

The fiscal department is working hard to ensure a smooth transition to DCYF, including closing the fiscal year, setting up DCYF's payroll, and merging accounts of the two agencies. The field operations remain unchanged – the day-to-day tasks of social workers will not stop during the transition.

DCYF and CA continue to work with Deloitte Consulting, the organizational change management group. DCYF leadership continues to work towards a unified and renewed perspective of merging the two agencies. Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel noted there is some tension among staff about the representation of CA in the organizational structure at the management level.

Most of the high level management positions have been filled, with one exception being the position historically known as the CA Director of Program and Policy. This position is being redefined as the Director of Child Welfare Services. This position is aligned with Secretary Hunter's vision of focusing less on program management and more focused on the facilitating and creating regional partnerships for a better service array. Secretary Hunter is interested in creating specialized positions focused on curating services for children and families, and increasing service capacity across the state.

Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel will be able to hire a Deputy to her new role within DCYF, but the position has not yet been posted.

Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel then opened the floor for questions. Mr. Jim Bamberger asked whether CA will keep its identity as CA within DCYF. Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel responded that it is not yet clear, but CA will come to an end on June 30th. Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel suspects the new identity of CA will be akin to the Division of Child Welfare Field Services.

Mr. Bamberger then asked who will take on the responsibility of addressing disproportionality in child welfare. Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel responded by saying everyone will share the responsibility for addressing disproportionality. DCYF's Office of Innovation,

Alignment and Accountability will have the responsibility of curating services. The operations side of DCYF will have a distinct position within human resources. In addition, a Program Manager, Dae Shogren, will continue to be a resource and provide support in DCYF. There will also continue to be an oversight board that will monitor disproportionality.

Ms. Carrie Wayno asked Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel to describe which programs will be moving from what CA historically conducted to “operations” in DCYF. Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel explained the field work will remain static. There has been some movement at the headquarters level that has shifted some program work to operations. Deputy Secretary Heather Moss is in charge of operations- including human resources and fiscal. Quality assurance and continuous quality improvement work and associated staff will move to the “operations” side and pick up critical incident reviews.

Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel then described one of the most significant shifts from programs to operations. Licensing historically was conducted as one of CA’s programmatic duties. The work will move to the “operations” side of DCYF. Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel expressed there was controversy surrounding this move. Licensing conducted by the Department of Early Learning and CA involve different bodies of work. The merging of these two different systems is anxiety provoking to some, but may also offer opportunities for innovation.

Ms. Joanne Moore then asked whether the Children’s Services Advisory Committee will remain active with DCYF. Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel said the Committee will meet the following Monday in Kent. She explained the Committee was inactive for a while but has recently been revived. She expects the Committee will continue their work with the new DCYF leadership, likely Jody Becker.

Mockingbird Advocacy Agenda Update

Ms. Lauren Frederick and Ms. Bri Winslow provided an update to Mockingbird’s 2018 advocacy agenda.

Ms. Winslow began by providing an update on Mockingbird’s lead priorities. The first priority was to expand access to higher education through the Passport to College Scholarship. Through SB 6274, the Passport to College Scholarship expanded to include youth in tribal foster care, federal foster care, youth placed in Washington State from other states, and homeless youth. An apprenticeship program was also established. SB 6274 passed and was allocated \$559,000 in the state budget.

The second lead priority was to strengthen Extended Foster Care. Through SB 6222, youth are allowed to enroll in the program up to age 21, to enter and exit as needed, and ensures that youth who are state dependent at age 18 and meet one of five eligibility requirements can enroll. SB 6222 passed and was allocated \$126,000 in the state budget.

Ms. Frederick then provided an update on Mockingbird’s advocacy achievements in partnership with other organizations. The state budget includes funding for a study with DCYF and the Office of Homeless Youth to make recommendations about new public systems responses to families in crisis. The state capital budget also includes \$106 million in funding for the Housing Trust Fund, which funds affordable homes, including homes for children and youth. Finally, HB

1630 was passed that allows minors to consent to share personal information with the Homeless Management Information System. As a result, Washington State will have more accurate data about the scope and prevalence of homeless youth under the age of 18.

Ms. Frederick then explained Mockingbird's year-round advocacy cycle. Currently, Mockingbird is in the "identifying challenges" phase when youth advocates brainstorm system gaps affecting youth and young adults experiencing foster care and/or homelessness. As the Youth and Alumni Summit approaches in August, youth advocates will refine and develop solutions to address systems gaps. Preliminary policy recommendations will be presented at the Youth and Alumni Summit.

Ms. Winslow then explained the non-legislative advocacy work underway. The first area of focus is increasing the availability of legal rights for youth in care. Mockingbird is discussing the development of a mobile-friendly site for young people to access information about their legal rights. The second area of focus is working with DCYF regarding a youth advisory board. The final area of focus is ending youth detention for status offenses.

Ms. Frederick then explained that Mockingbird is trying to gather information from community partners about preventing and reducing youth in dependencies from being detained for status offenses. Mockingbird seeks to understand whether the current system is working as intended and if detention is being used for safety or punishment purposes. Ms. Frederick acknowledged the Commission members are experts on this topic and opened the floor for discussion.

Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel asked Ms. Frederick to summarize legislative efforts Mockingbird undertook in the previous session. Ms. Frederick explained there was a bill addressing status offenses for youth in dependencies that progressed, but did not receive a floor vote. There were concerns from courts and juvenile court administrators. The opposition raised concerns removing the option of detention if deemed necessary for safety. Ultimately, legislators seemed interested in the topic and wished to support young people, but were unsure of the method proposed in the bill.

Judge Kitty-Ann van Doorninck explained that larger counties have a significantly greater number of alternatives to detention than smaller jurisdictions. She explained that when detention is used, it is often for safety reasons, but smaller jurisdictions may need more support and education on creative alternatives.

Ms. Jill Malat expressed understanding the desire to use detention as a way to guarantee safety. However, she explained in her experience, being punished had the opposite of the desired effect. She noticed young people often returned to detention. She suggested more research should be conducted on the subject.

Justice Bridge noted there has been a movement of states changing their use of detention for status offenses. She noted there may be lessons learned from other states that can be shared to inform Washington State, especially those who may be fearful of this change. She explained the research is clear about the detrimental impact of detention, aside from the use of detention as a means to keep a young person alive.

Judge van Doorninck noted that when the BECCA bill first passed, there were more secure crisis residential centers (CRC). The closure of CRCs makes it difficult to find safe placement for young people.

Ms. Tonia McClanahan expressed she thought the use of detention is regionally diverse. She noted in Thurston County, detention is not used very often. In a cross-system youth discussion earlier that morning, Ms. McClanahan was informed that twelve youth were in detention for new crimes. She believes there is a movement within Washington State to decrease the use of detention, and education and awareness are key convincing other jurisdictions to reduce their use of detention as well.

Ms. Wayno explained the risk of not ensuring the safety of young people concerns professionals in the court system and prevents many from endorsing the complete ban of using detention. She suggested pursuing methods to narrow the use of detention and expanding alternate options.

Mr. Canfield recalled research that suggested detaining young people after thirty days was more harmful than helpful. He suggested exploring the use of detention for only short periods of time to discover the root nature of the adverse behavior and in conjunction with services.

Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel summarized the group's sentiment that the lack of alternates to detention creates concerns and may result in longer and more frequent stays in detention. She suggested further investigation into "up-stream" solutions.

Ms. Frederick thanked the Commission for their input and contributions.

Sex Education for Youth in Foster Care

Ms. Jeannie Kee provided the Commission an update from the Normalcy Workgroup regarding sex education for youth in foster care.

The Normalcy Workgroup met in the previous month and invited several interested stakeholders to share their perspective and insight. Guests included Dae Shogren, CA LGBTQ+/Disproportionality/ Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Program Manager, Amy Lang, Sex Education Expert, Kari Kesler, FLASH Curriculum Co-Author, Lindsay Greene, Coordinated Care, Hannah Farcus, foster parent, and Laurie Dils, Sex Education Supervisory OSPI.

The group came to consensus on the topics the group would like covered in a foster care sex education curriculum. The group agrees the curriculum should be medically accurate, available at a younger age, consider LGBTQ+ specific topics, and include a healthy relationships component.

Ms. Kee explained the desired components are already incorporated into the FLASH curriculum. She explained the curriculum is used widely in King County and the group is considering efforts to expand its use statewide. The group discussed how school districts have discretion on what sex curriculum to provide and when to teach their students. There is little consistency across the state on both content and timing.

Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel asked about Coordinated Care's response to the workgroup's goals. Ms. Kee responded that Coordinated Care shared their current statewide efforts and was open to new ideas from the group. Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel noted that Coordinated Care will begin incorporating more youth-focused behavioral health components to their trainings and could be strong partners for this work. Ms. Kee agreed and said Coordinated Care was especially interested in disseminating information about youth reproductive rights.

Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel recalled the keynote speaker from the Children's Justice Conference and the importance of teaching young people what is appropriate and inappropriate behavior towards other people. In sex education, there is little talk about what constitutes inappropriate behavior.

Ms. Kee noted the opportunity for the workgroup to incorporate recommendations from the recent passage of Erin's Law. Ms. Kee hopes the workgroup can partner with groups like Amara to ensure foster parents have adequate tools for sex education conversations.

Justice Bridge asked about the timeline for the workgroup's recommendations. Ms. Kee responded the workgroup hopes to publish recommendations by the end of the year. Ms. Kee explained the next focus of the workgroup is to determine the audience for the curriculum. Ms. Peggy Carlson agreed the group will need to determine whether to focus on caregivers, biological parents, foster parents, youth, or some combination. Further, the group will need to decide how to deliver the curriculum.

Family Reunification Month Proclamation

Ms. Moore and Ms. Lorrie Thompson provided an update on the Family Reunification Month Committee efforts. The Committee met on April 19th to discuss what efforts to pursue this year. The Committee decided to pursue communicating to judges, providing posters, and issuing a proclamation.

Ms. Moore directed the Commissioners to review the wording of the proclamation prior to voting on adopting the measure. Mr. Bamberger moved to adopt the Family Reunification Month proclamation. Judge van Doorninck seconded. The proclamation adoption passed unanimously.

Ms. Thompson described the Committee's efforts for this year's Family Reunification Month celebrations. A listserv message from Judge Basset was emailed to courts with existing Family Reunification Month celebrations across the state inviting them to join the statewide celebration. There was a positive response from Pierce, Thurston, Spokane, and Yakima courts. The Committee is working on op-ed pieces for the Seattle Times and for publication in Spokane. The Committee meeting further discussed brainstorming the core messages the celebration hopes to convey to the public.

Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel noted other jurisdictions may have advice for successful celebrations. She suggested contacting other courts with successful Family Reunification Month celebrations to learn what works well. She also suggested the courts' partnership with CA is important for making the celebrations a success.

Ms. Moore recognized Ms. McClanahan's work in starting Family Reunification Month celebrations in Mason County. She also noted that pushing courts without money for celebratory "bells and whistles" is important. She suggested a poster and proclamation may be enough for courts to adopt the idea.

Ms. Thompson finished by sharing the other activities the workgroup will be working on. They will draft newsletter, provide a certificate for courts to sign, and create a website. Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel asked the workgroup notify the Commission once the website is online and to be updated as more work progresses.

Annual Dependency Timeliness Report

Mr. Matt Orme presented the major findings of the Washington State Center for Court Research's Annual Dependency Timeliness Report. He apologized for not providing hard copies of the report, but an electronic version can be found on the Washington State Center for Court Research website.

Mr. Orme began by describing the number of intakes received annually from 2010 to 2017. The number of intakes increased by 31% since 2010. In 2017, there were over 43,000 CPS reports requiring a face-to-face response, a 51% increase since 2010. For emergent cases that needed to be seen face-to-face within 24 hours, there has been an almost 200% increase since 2010. Mr. Orme explained the increase of intakes and referrals into the system is placing increased pressure on CA. There has been an increase in the percent of children removed from their parents where one of the reasons for removal was parental drug abuse. In 2017, 64% of children under age one were removed for reasons that included parental drug abuse.

Mr. Orme then presented a portion of the report that described efforts to investigate disproportionality. The report explores disproportionality at CPS intake as well as young people in care for greater than two years. The report explains that American Indian/Alaska Native Multiracial and Black Multiracial children are approximately twice as likely as White children to be placed in out of home care. Further, Black children are slightly more than likely than other races to remain in out-of-home placement more than two years.

Mr. Orme then explained that dependency filings rose in 2017 by 3% and remain near multiyear highs. Dismissals on dependency cases rose 6%, and termination filings are at a seven-year high with an 8.7% increase. He explained that as the number of dependencies filings continue to be high and the number of dismissals continue to be less than dependency filings, children in care will on average remain in care longer.

Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel asked whether the increase in termination filings is a result of increased communication between the Children's Administration and the attorney general's office, or whether it is an indication of increased family complexity and difficulty. Mr. Orme answered that the reason for increased termination filings is likely both. He also explained the last few years' increase in dependency filings is likely causing an increased number of termination filings now that several years have passed.

He also explained the median number of months in out-of-home care prior to a termination of parental rights petition filing decreased to approximately 12 months. Also, the report illustrates a

slow increase of median number of months from dependency filing to legally free status from 21 to 23 months over the last five years.

Next, Mr. Orme explained the results of adoptions completed within six months of a termination order. In 2017, the median number of months from termination order to adoption was approximately 7.6 months.

Ms. Laurie Lippold asked about the report's findings on whether foster parents received timely notification of dependency hearings and whether caregivers submitted reports to the court. Mr. Orme and Ms. Cindy Bricker responded by explaining the data were only recently collected and missing data from many counties remains a challenge. Mr. Orme explained they are working to improve documentation and a monthly interactive report is available for courts to track their progress.

Mr. Orme noted that percent of cases with fact-finding hearings held within 75 days after filing of the petition held constant from previous years at approximately 65% on average for the state. He highlighted that Thurston County is above the state average at 70%. King County has struggled in recent years with their percent of cases with fact-finding within 75 days at 44% in 2017.

The 2017 State rate of compliance on percent of cases with a permanency planning hearing within 12 months of placement remained unchanged at 85%. Mr. Orme noted a dedicated Family and Juvenile Court Improvement (FJCIP) Coordinator in Thurston County is likely a contributing factor for Thurston County's improvement in many indicators this year.

Ms. Wayno inquired about King County's performance and their involvement with FJCIP. Mr. Orme responded that King County's FJCIP Coordinator is highly competent, but turnover in King County is high and likely contributing to less ideal performance indicators.

Mr. Orme then presented the findings regarding the adoption completion rate within six months of a termination order. The State and FJCIP counties rate fell in 2017 to approximately 37% and 35% respectively. Mr. Orme noted that it has historically been difficult for young people to get adopted within 6 months of a termination order. Mr. Orme also noted the percent of cases achieving permanency before 15 months of out-of-home care has also historically been difficult to achieve.

Mr. Patrick Dowd asked whether there is data tracking adoption outcomes after six months post termination order. He asked whether there are trends at certain time points (e.g. 10 or 12 months post termination order) and whether there is a correlation with attorneys appointed to children. Mr. Orme responded that analysis into the factors preventing young people from achieving permanency could be done, but it is not currently available.

Mr. Orme then described the report's findings on the percent of cases that enter foster care that had a prior dependency case. The state rate of cases reentering foster care after a prior dismissal was approximately 7%. Mr. Orme noted there are pockets of counties throughout the state that struggle with this indicator more than others.

Ms. Moore asked about the federal definition of the percent of young people re-entering care. Mr. Orme responded that the federal measure tracks re-entry into care after reunification. The federal rate is approximately 6%.

Ms. Malat asked whether tracking failed adoptions has been considered for future reports. Mr. Orme responded that failed adoptions used to be included in the report, but the rate is logistically hard to track and the number of failed adoptions is small.

Mr. Orme concluded by asking Ms. Bricker if she would like to share updates about permanency summits. Ms. Bricker agreed to send a list of upcoming summit locations.

2017 Office of the Family & Children's Ombuds Annual Report

Mr. Dowd continued his presentation on the Office of the Family & Children's Ombuds (OFCO) Annual Report from the previous Commission meeting.

Mr. Dowd began by outlining the topics of his presentation. The focus of the presentation was on placement exceptions (e.g. temporary emergency stays in hotels or offices), Mr. Dowd's work with foster parents, and an update on the DCYF oversight board.

Mr. Dowd began with presenting the report's findings on placement exceptions. OFCO began tracking placement exceptions in 2015. In 2015, there were 120 placement exception incidents involving 72 children. In 2016, there were 883 placement incidents involving 221 children. In 2017, there were 824 placement incidents involving 195 children. The majority of these placement exceptions occur in King and Snohomish counties. Mr. Dowd explained that although he does not have an exact number for 2018, there are a significant number of placement exceptions recorded every week this year. Mr. Dowd also noted that the number of children who are placed in hotels or office without behavioral challenges is decreasing. However, there is an increasing number of children with more acute needs (e.g. those involved in CLIP or BRS) that are placed in placement exceptions.

Mr. Dowd gave several examples of situations requiring a placement exception. A sixteen year-old youth with pending criminal charges, extensive abuse history, but no prior history of running away, is placed in a temporary setting while a BRS placement can be identified. Additionally, a fifteen year-old with a history of suicidal behavior often cycles between hospitalization and temporary placement settings after exploring multiple avenues of longer-term placement. Finally, a thirteen year-old who had experienced multiple placement exceptions became disruptive waiting at a department office for a new placement and threatened and assaulted staff. The police became involved and the youth was arrested for felony harassment charges.

Mr. Dowd explained that these examples are illustrative of the challenges the department faces with using temporary placement exceptions. Mr. Dowd noted that the OFCO report recommends developing a continuum of placement options and hiring more professional foster parents to meet the higher needs of young people. The report highlights that the use of placement exceptions is added disruption and trauma to a young person. In some cases, the use of placement exceptions leads to criminal charges when young people's needs are not met by the system. The report also recommends early mental health services, and support for foster parents and staff to avoid further placement disruptions.

Mr. Murrey asked if Mr. Dowd had an explanation for the seasonality pattern of increased use of placement exceptions in May through August. Mr. Dowd did not have an explanation for the pattern. Mr. Murrey then asked to confirm whether each night spent in a placement exception counts as an individual incidents. Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel confirmed.

Mr. Dowd then summarized his work investigating complaints from foster parents regarding retaliation. Mr. Dowd aimed to understand what foster parents were experiencing and foster parents' definition of retaliation.

A common complaint from foster parents involved DLR referrals and investigations. Foster parents did not like how referrals and investigations were handled, especially involving false allegations from youth. Some foster parents felt that DLR acted in a heavy-handed manner in licensing actions, revocations or limiting the types of young people able to be in the care of a foster family (e.g. age, gender), and the way compliance agreements were used.

Other complaints concerned communication with caseworkers such as not returning emails and not being notified in a timely manner of court hearings and shared-planning meetings. Caseworkers were cited as being rude, unprofessional or threatening. Some foster parents reported feeling like they were not part of a team. They reported feeling that their input was ignored or minimized if they disagreed with the department.

There were other concerns about placement changes. Foster parents were concerned about timely notification and a lack of transition time between moving from foster placement to a relative or birth family placement.

OFCO investigated the foster parent retaliation concerns. Retaliation investigations seek to answer whether the foster parent was engaged in a protected activity, whether the department took action that was harmful to the foster parent and whether the department's action was in reprisal for the foster parent engaging in a protected activity. Mr. Dowd explained that it is difficult to investigate retaliation because it involves determining motivation of department staff.

Mr. Dowd explained that the majority of retaliation complaints involve a threat, suggestion, or implication rather than an overt action from the department. Mr. Dowd gave the example of a foster parent that wants to be a permanent placement, but a relative placement was identified after being in their care for an extended period. The foster parent advocates for the child to remain in their care, however the department determines the relative placement is the preferred permanency plan. The department tells the foster parents that an alternate placement may be needed if the foster parents are not agreeable to the permanency plan. However, the foster parents may interpret that communication as a threat to "fall in line" or else the child will be removed from their care and is reluctant to file a complaint. Mr. Dowd explained that his office hears of similar complaints from relative caregivers in addition to foster parents.

Mr. Dowd explained that there are no easy solutions to the complaints from foster parents. He noted recent interest for legislative action to ensure the rights and responsibilities of foster parents are shared at the time of licensing. He also noted the recommendation for training for case workers on the rights and responsibilities of foster parents and more support for foster parents. Addressing turnover may also help address communication challenges.

Mr. Dowd then explained the Oversight Board created for DCYF. The legislative Oversight Board members have been identified. The legislative members are:

- Rep. Tana Senn, House Democratic Caucus—Legislator
- Rep. Tom Dent, House Republican Caucus—Legislator
- Sen. Jeannie Darneille, Senate Democratic Caucus—Legislator
- Sen. Steve O’Ban, Senate Republican Caucus—Legislator

In addition, there will be four subject matter experts and nine members from specified stakeholder groups. The remaining members will be nominated by Governor Inslee then confirmed by the legislative members. The process of nominating and confirming the remaining members is in process.

The Oversight Board will ensure DCYF achieves outcome measures, compiles with rules and statutes, and makes recommendations to the department and Governor’s office. The first meeting will occur on or after July 1st.

The immediate tasks of the Board will be to select officers, adopt rules and procedures, select an executive director and hire an administrative support position. The Board will assume duties of the existing legislative children’s oversight committee. They will receive reports from OFCO, are bound by the duty of confidentiality, and can request investigations. The Board will also have the ability to handle appeals about administrative decisions regarding license providers (not due to child safety) and has the authority to modify or overturn the decisions. The Board is required to convene public stakeholder meetings twice a year to receive community feedback and gather information. The Office of Innovation, Alignment and Accountability will provide quarterly reports to the Board. The Board will produce its first annual report in December 2019.

Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel concluded by thanking Mr. Dowd for his time.

Board for Judicial Administration 2019 Legislative Agenda

Justice Bridge called attention to the Board for Judicial Administration (BJA) 2019 Legislative Committee Proposal Form handout. The request for proposals is for interested parties to obtain the support of BJA for the next legislative session. Justice Bridge called attention to the handout with BJA’s subject matter interests and the application materials. The application is due August 18, 2018.

For the Good of the Order

Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel opened the floor for any additional items for the good of the order. Ms. Healing announced to the Commission that her first name was legally changed to Raven. Ms. Healing also mentioned the efforts to implement changes to the approved rule change to Washington State Court Rules APR 8 are underway.

Ms. Lippold reminded the Commission about the legislatively created Children’s Mental Health Group. The next meeting will occur on June 28th to discuss many topics such as the definition of medical necessity, use of parent-initiated treatment, age of consent. Ms. Lippold invited the Commission to contact her if they wanted to receive updates from the workgroup.

Justice Bridge thanked Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel for her partnership as co-chair on the Commission. Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel noted this meeting was her last Commission meeting. A new co-chair representative will be announced in the near future.

Adjourned at 3:28pm by Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel.
